

Society for their commitment to serving the Central Valley.

The Central Valley Safety Society, CVSS, was created as a non-profit organization in 1996 to provide safety and human resource professionals with a place to exchange ideas and information, for the professional enhancement of members and to recognize those who excel in safety and health. CVSS is based in the Central Valley and is the only group of its kind from Los Angeles to Modesto. The long time organizational members include; Pelco, Rich Products, The Fresno bee, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, Fresno County EOC and Clovis Cemetery District.

CVSS holds nine monthly luncheon meetings in downtown Fresno. Typically, there are twenty to thirty members present to discuss topics that cover a range of issues from Heat Illness Protection, Hazardous Materials and Health and Wellness Programs. The speakers are typically volunteers from the community. Over the past eight years, the organization has partnered with similar organizations in the Fresno area, such as; Ag Safe, Human Resource Association of Central California, Fresno County Employer Advisory Council and California State University SHRM Student Chapter. CVSS has partnered with these and other organizations to plan and participate in a half-day human resource and safety seminar and it is held annually in October.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Central Valley Safety Society for their commitment to serving the Central Valley. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the organization many years of continued success.

HONORING LA'VERA ETHRIDGE-WILLIAMS, AS THE 2007 TRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS HONOREE BY THE WEST FRESNO HEALTHCARE COALITION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate La'Vera Ethridge-Williams of Fresno, California, for being named a 2007 Honoree at the West Fresno Healthcare Coalition's Tribute to Health Champions reception. As a principal advocate for childcare in Fresno County, La'Vera is a woman of great vision, and is certainly most deserving of this honor.

Born in Boley, Oklahoma, La'Vera moved to Fresno, where she attended Fresno City College, and then California State University, Fresno. Recognizing the need for a child care facility in West Fresno she submitted a proposal to the California Department of Health and Welfare. After 4 long years, her dream became a reality when her first private child care center designed specifically for infants was inaugurated.

La'Vera opened a chain of daycare centers geared to the education of young children, providing not only a service to the community, but also employment opportunities for West Fresno residents. Mrs. Ethridge-Williams' emphasis has always been on the health, nutrition, and education of children. Her involve-

ment in the health arena has also led her to become one of the founding members of the Sickle Cell Support Group in Fresno, California.

La'Vera Ethridge Williams is a woman of great principle and integrity. She is a role model for all of us, especially those in the childcare industry. I have known La'Vera and her family for years and know they care deeply and contribute daily to make our Valley a better place to live. It is with great pride that I congratulate her for all that she does on behalf of the West Fresno community and for receiving this distinguished award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, November 8, 2007, I was unable to be present in the Capitol due to the death of a family member and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 1060 through 1067. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 1060, on H.R. 3688, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, I would have voted "nay." I believe the Peru Free Trade Agreement, FTA, is another fundamentally flawed trade agreement. I oppose this FTA because it includes many of the same provisions from the original NAFTA that left workers terribly unprotected, led to the outsourcing of millions of U.S. jobs, and allowed companies to ignore environmental protections here and abroad that are vital to people's health and safety. It's going to hurt workers here and in Peru. I regret that I was unable to be here, due to the devastating loss of a beloved family member, to cast a vote against it.

On rollcall votes Nos. 1061, 1062, 1063, and 1064, the procedural votes on the Rule for Consideration of the Conference Report on H.R. 3222, the Fiscal Year 2008 Department of Defense Appropriations bill, as well as the Conference Report itself, I would have voted "aye." As a member of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense and therefore, a Conferee on this bill, I voted for it in Conference and strongly support this critical bill that enhances America's security by providing our service men and women with the tools they need to protect our Nation today and giving them the resources and weapons systems they need to fight the threats of tomorrow. This measure also invests in our military personnel by affording them comprehensive health care and ensuring that our wounded warriors are treated with the dignity that they deserve. Had I been present during the consideration of this bill, I would have voted "aye" on both of these measures with great pleasure and pride.

On rollcall votes Nos. 1065 and 1066, which were procedural votes on the Rule for H.R. 3355, the Homeowners' Defense Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye." This bill will improve New Jersey citizens' ability to secure homeowners' insurance, as well as recover from flood or hurricane damage.

On rollcall vote No. 1067, the Motion to instruct Conferees for the Transportation, and

Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2008, I would have voted "aye."

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 32 HONOREES OF THE WEST PALM BEACH URBAN LEAGUE DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ACHIEVERS SOCIETY NOVEMBER 9, 2007

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 9, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of 32 exceptional young people who will be honored tomorrow by the West Palm Beach National Urban League for their acceptance into the National Achievers Society. Their accomplishments are evidence that the will to succeed endures in spite of continued prejudice, discrimination, and a public education system that historically and presently places many young minorities at a disadvantage in the classroom and beyond.

The achievements of these young people and the establishment of the National Achievers Society Program are both worthy of Congressional recognition. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the following young men and women for their drive and for setting a hopeful and positive example for our country and their community:

Shauna-Kay Nation; Tatiana Virginia; Demetri Virginia; Reginald Walker; Valeana Andre; Rose D'Haiti; Ilesha Brutton; Mecarra Easley; Lucianne Gabriel; Chandra Fulwood; Miranda Renald; Regine Hill; Christina Taylor; Jasmine McGee; Brandon Coombs; Mariah Lewis; Thomas Coates III; Aikayah Williams; Devondrea Edwards; Antonio Taylor; Marcus Sutton; Gabrielle Alexandre; Natasha Juggar; Seon Lewis; Devin Williamson; Khasara Lewis; Arrianne Morrison; Trevor Thomas; Briana Thomas; Charlene Vieira; Marissa Richards; and Regis Frazier.

The National Achievers Society was founded by community leaders who developed an aggressive national response to the educational and developmental crisis facing young people of color in our country. The authors of this program provided children in grades 3-12 with the opportunity to begin and continue their road to excellence by giving them the resources to achieve in the arts, humanities and sciences.

By supporting adults and young people in the development of the next generation of leaders, the National Young Achievers Society ensures that a child's dream to succeed is able to materialize through hard work and dedication. I have always believed that we must invest in young people if we want to be a strong force on the domestic and international stage in the future. These 32 young men and women are evidence of the remarkable reward that ensues when quality programs and dedicated individuals nurture the minds and spirits of our Nation's most precious resource. Indeed, they are worthy of the recognition and congratulation of the U.S. House of Representatives.